



Wrong way driver is no stranger to the law **P2**



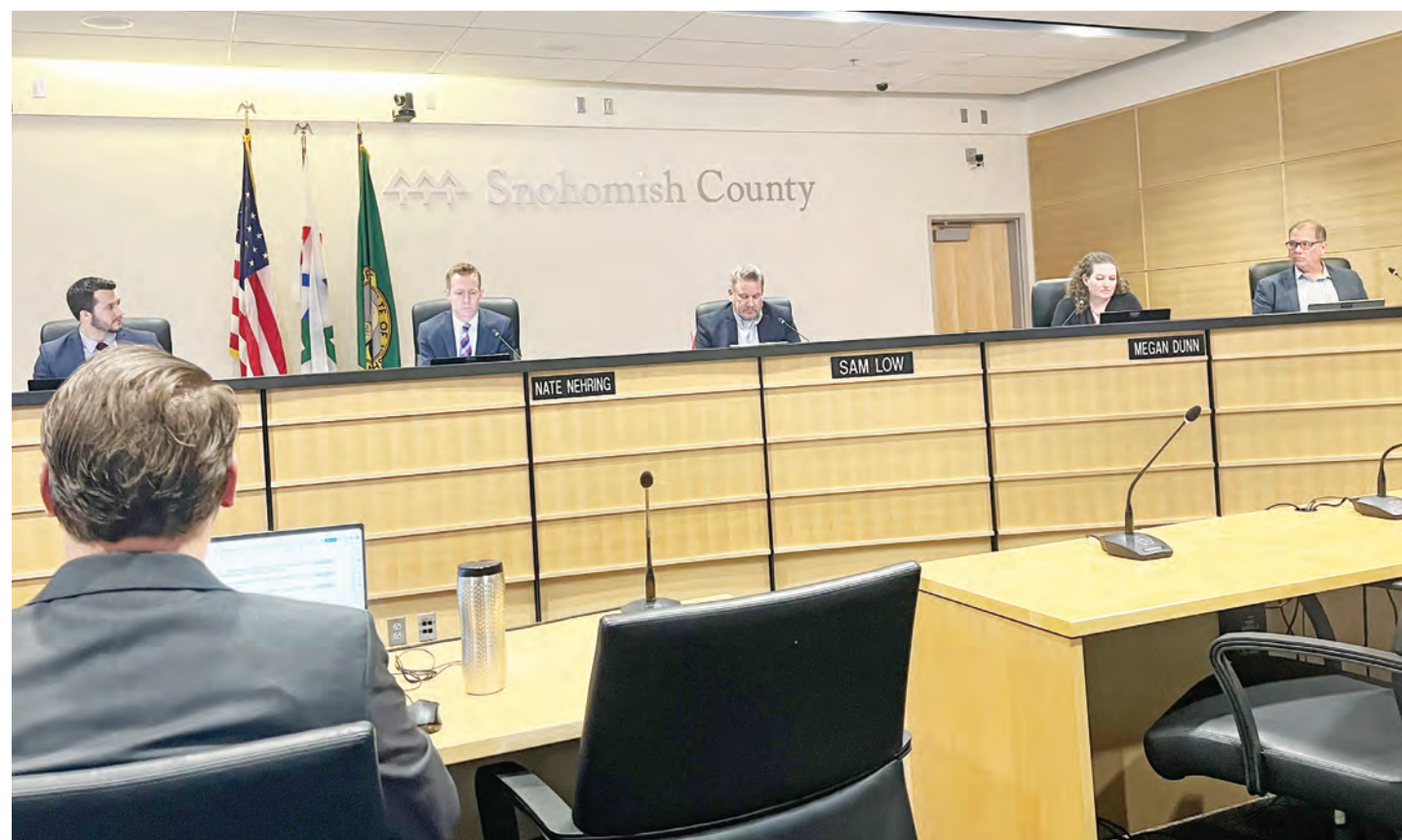
Mini Einstein Learning Center holds ribbon cutting for new facility **P3**



PAWS Wildlife Center opens new facility **P9**

Real News ⚡
Real Impact

Snohomish County now to require annual drug testing of its housing properties



Snohomish County Council meeting on May 1, 2024. Lynnwood Times | Kienan Broscoe.

By MARIO LOTMORE

Everett—The Snohomish County Council adopted Ordinance 24-011 at its Public

Hearing on May 1, with a vote of 3-2, that will now require annual testing of county-owned supportive housing facilities for hazardous

chemicals. The ordinance, introduced by Councilmember Nate Nehring was adopted on a 3-2 vote with Council Chair Jared Mead and

Councilman Sam Low also voting in majority; Councilmembers Megan Dunn

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County Salary commission approves \$230,000 in pay raises for elected officials

By MARIO LOTMORE

SNOHOMISH COUNTY—At its Thursday meeting on April 25, the Snohomish County 2024 Salary Commission approved a total of \$229,815 (or 14.98 percent) in pay raises for Snohomish County government elected officials over a two-year period effective January 1, 2025.

The commission unanimously agreed to a uniform approach to determining salaries for elected officials, reversing its decision on April 15 to applying a “rightsizing” methodology only for the Snohomish County Sheriff’s position.

“What if we brought it up to averaging it like the executive and put a 2.5 percent increase,” Commissioner Joe Wankelman suggested to his colleagues. “Inflation gets addressed...I am trying to find that happy ground, that happy medium.”

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CD2 candidate calls on challenger to withdraw, arrested at ceasefire protest

By KIENAN BRISCOE

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Jason Call, Green Party candidate running for Congress in the Second District, called upon Lynnwood City Councilman and fellow congressional candidate, Josh Binda, to exit the race one day before being arrested on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, standing in “solidarity” with protestors calling for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Both Call and Binda are running for Washington’s Second Congressional District (Second CD) to replace Democratic incumbent Rick Larsen—Call as a Green Party member and Binda as a Democrat. The Second CD encompasses all of Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom counties, as well as coastal western Snohomish County.

Call, a former public school teacher and elected union representative, considers himself a lifelong anti-war and climate activist. He was arrested in St. Louis on Saturday, April 27, for engaging in a demonstration in support of students demands for divestment from Boeing for manufacturing munitions used in



Washington state Congressional District 2 candidate Jason Call (right) with Jill Stein (left) and others on April 27, 2024, in locked arms calling for a ceasefire in Gaza on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. SOURCE: Jason Call X page.

the Israel-Gaza conflict at its nearby St. Charles facility.

Call was visiting St. Louis with Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein for a campaign event. Call also serves

as Stein’s campaign manager.

Stein joined Call in the St. Louis County jail in Clayton along with roughly 80 other demonstrators who now face a mixture of trespassing, assault, and re-

sisting arrest charges. Stein argues that she was, in fact, the one assaulted by the police.

“It’s shameful that university administrations are condoning the use of force against their own students who are simply calling for peace, human rights, and an end to a genocide that the American people abhor,” Stein posted to X the Sunday after she was released from jail.

The demonstration took place just a few blocks from campus where the campaign event was taking place. A handful of Washington University students were panelists at the campaign event and invited both Stein and Call to visit an encampment that had been erected to protest the Israel Palestine conflict.

At the encampment, Call and Stein were asked to engage with the administration on site to negotiate a de-escalation, given there were six different police departments represented on campus at the time, according to Call, who also shared that the administration chose not to engage. In response Call and Stein joined

Continued **PAGE 5** >>

Wrong way driver is no stranger to the law and also connected to Lynnwood hate crime in October 2022

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—After nearly two weeks of being hospitalized at Harborview Medical Center, Robert Craig Rowland, who allegedly drove the wrong way on 525 causing a fatal car crash on April 11, has been transported to the Snohomish County Jail. His bail has been set for \$2 million and a trial date set for June 14, 2024.

Rowland had been driving with his kidnapped ex-girlfriend, who was in the passenger seat during the incident, court records state. The crash killed 83-year-old Trudy Slanger. Rowland was suspected to have been high on methamphetamines at the time.

He is now facing charges of kidnapping, attempt to elude, assault 4, unlawful possession of a firearm, assault 1, aggravated murder, vehicular assault, and taking a motor vehicle without permission. All these charges, except for assault 4, are felonies with two of them being classified as felony A's which can be punishable with up to life in prison plus fines.

Rowland had his first court appearance on Wednesday, April 24, where he appeared in a wheelchair for his virtual hearing. Everett District Court Judge Pro Tem David Ruzumna found probable cause for all of Rowland's charges during this time.

Rowland has a long history with the law dating back to the year 2000 when he was just 14 years old and attempted to bring a dangerous weapon to his school.

On July 26, 2021, Rowland was picked up by at his house in Lake Stevens on an arrest warrant granted for assault, arson, and drive-by shooting the previous day. When he was arrested Rowland had 67 fentanyl pills, scales, baggies, methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, a Glock 9mm handgun, and a second stolen 9mm pistol from a previous burglary on his person.

At the time of Rowland's April 11 arrest, he had already been convicted of several felonies including attempted second-degree robbery in King County on 2006, first degree theft in 2017, attempting to elude in 2017, possession of a stolen vehicle in 2017, theft of a motor vehicle in 2017, possession of a stolen vehicle in 2017-, and fourth-degree assault in 2014. Rowland also had 10 juvenile felony convictions and six



Alleged Kidnapper, killer and hate crime suspect, Robert C Rowland's Department of Corrections picture (left) and his 83-year-old victim, Trudy Slanger, a Lynnwood mother and grandmother.

juvenile misdemeanors—all of which prohibited Rowland from owning a firearm.

Rowland also has 12 adult misdemeanors including two driving with a suspended license convictions and a minor in possession conviction.

On December 27, 2022, Rowland was arrested for a racially fueled hate-crime incident that took place on October 8, 2022. Court records show that he allegedly got out of his truck in the parking lot of in Manor Way Apartments in unincorporated Lynnwood after seeing two Black men. He allegedly shouted, "what are you Black guys doing here," according to witnesses, before firing his pistol at them without provocation. One of the victims in this incident lived at the complex.

Deputy prosecutor Isaac Wells III wrote in his charging papers for the alleged racially fueled incident that, despite Rowland's long history with the law, he felt the suspect's violence was "escalating."

"Based on the above, and the facts of the current case, the State has significant community safety concerns if he is released. Rowland has an Elude conviction from 2017 and one from 2003... This shows Rowland's release without further conditions will not reasonably assure the defendant's presence when required," Wells III wrote to the court.

He was subsequently charged in 2023 for First Degree Assault (weapon) and a warrant issued for his arrest on June 29, 2023, for failure to appear in court. He was detained then posted \$5,000 bail on August 22, 2023, and released from jail.

In October of 2023, another warrant for the arrest of Robert Rowland was issued for failure to appear for his trial on October 6, 2023. On December 5, 2023, Rowland was booked into custody from the bench warrant in the Snohomish County Jail and posted bail again in the amount of \$5,000. His new trial date was scheduled for March 1, 2024.

Rowland, again failed to appear for his latest court appearance related to the alleged hate crime incident in unincorporated Lynnwood, and another bench warrant was issued for his arrest on

March 1, 2024, and again forfeiting another \$5,000 to the bail/bond company.

The day before the fatal April 11 crash, officers attempted to serve Rowland's arrest warrant but he jumped out of the window and fled. The next day he assaulted a woman at the Tulalip Resort Casino and kidnapped his 34-year-old ex-girlfriend.

Deputies with the Northwest Violent Offender's Task Force located Rowland at a 711 parking lot in Everett but did not initiate an arrest due to the busy civilian traffic. They followed his vehicle, which was traced back to a stolen vehicle in Bothell and initiated a pursuit.

The Deputies were still in pursuit of Rowland leading up to the crash but ter-

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LYNNWOOD TIMES

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GENERAC

Mini Einstein Learning Center holds ribbon cutting for new childcare facility



Mini Einstein ribbon cutting ceremony on April 26, 2024. SOURCE: Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—Mini Einstein early childcare learning center held a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house Friday, April 26, commemorating its brand-new building at 21020 67th Avenue West in Lynnwood. The building will officially open on May 1, after a long, five years in-the-making.

“Mini Einsteins is very welcoming, and they’ve been so great with our kids, and are great from the second you walk through the doors,” Mallari, a mother of a Mini Einstein student, told the Lynnwood Times.

The ribbon cutting ceremony began with a few words from owner Samantha Sciacca who shared her gratitude to everyone who helped build the company, from staff, to families that became staff, and her husband William.

“These are the people who are making a positive difference in the world,” said Sciacca. “This is what truly defines our company success...we look forward to your support, your guidance, and we look forward to this new chapter in this company saga with you.”

Award recipients at Friday’s event, honoring key contributors to the building’s success, including faculty members: Ashley Morga, Haley Darrell, Janice Shin, and Amelia Lanseigne.

“These individuals, plus our teachers, have poured our very essence into this company,” said Sciacca about the recipients. “They are the pillars in which this building was built upon.”

In addition to recognizing the award recipients, Sciacca recognized Willie



The Mini Einstein building dedicated to JoAnne Nelson (left) by Samantha Sciacca (right) at its ribbon cutting ceremony on April 26, 2024. SOURCE: Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

Franklin, a former alumni and parent of four Mini Einstein pupils, who worked on the construction of the new building. His attention to detail, Sciacca said, was paramount even going as far as installing lower-than-usual toilets to be more kid accessible.

Lastly, Sciacca acknowledged JoAnne Nelson, former owner of Brighton School and current owner of the property. The new building is dedicated to Nelson for her “unwavering commitment to putting children’s education first, and for the boundless belief in the power of dreams.”

Nelson shared with the Lynnwood Times that she was “shocked,” but honored, to hear that the building would be named after her.

“I’m the one who is grateful,” said Nelson. “Because having the school need-

ing to leave the building made me sad but knowing that it could still help be there for children and families – that’s the legacy of the building, that’s the legacy I wanted, and I had no idea what it could be.”

The building was built in 1971 for the General Telephone Company. Nelson began Brighton School in 1982, just down the road from the building, and in 1995, she began her search for her own building for her school. She noticed the telephone building was for sale and moved Brighton school in where it operated for the last 20 years before relocating to Mountlake Terrace.

Brighton’s relocation left the question of what to do with the vacant building. According to Nelson the “stars aligned” when Mini Einstein was looking for a new space and “the rest is history.”

“When I met [Samantha Sciacca] we talked about the similarities of having this vision and just wanting to make this happen. I did see in her so many things I saw in myself 20 years before and it was so gratifying. I looked at her and said, yeah, she’s gonna make this happen. I could feel that energy in her and knew she was going to work hard and do what she needed to do, but I never would have guessed it’d turn out so beautifully,” said Nelson.

Mini Einstein’s Learning Center (MELC) is a Christian-based early learning center which is veteran-owned and offers discounts for veterans and members of the military. Its mission statement is to: “serve families in the community by providing high quality care for their infants, toddlers, preschool, and pre-k children in a safe, supportive, exciting, and nurturing environment so that they can grow physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually, and will come to understand that they are created and loved by God.”

After Samantha Sciacca, owner of Mini Einstein’s Learning Center, started her teaching career working in the SeaTac public school system which was “eye opening,” she informed the Lynnwood Times. She left the public sector to help build the necessary foundation at a company called Cornerstone.

At Cornerstone, Sciacca filled in wherever she was needed, starting as a teacher for three-year-olds, working as a cook, as a janitor, and eventually Assistant Director and finally Director shortly before getting notice that their building, on 220th in Mountlake Ter-

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Farmers Market season blossoms, bringing farm-fresh nutritious food to a city near you

BY KIENAN BRISCOE

Farmers Market season is finally upon us with some markets beginning as soon as the first week of May. So, grab your reusable bags, get outside in the sunny spring weather, pick up some locally grown produce, and cook a healthy, delicious meal while supporting your local farmers!

With warmer weather ahead of us comes farm-fresh, locally grown, food and what better way to shop for those goods than right in your backyard?

EDMONDS

The Edmonds Museum Summer Market begins on May 4 and runs through the first week of October, hosting about 90 vendors every Saturday through the spring and summer season.

Each vendor at Edmonds Museum Summer Market is a family-owned business and is required to either make or grow what they sell.

While farmers grow and raise all the produce they bring to the market, featured producers, artists and crafters bring items they make to the market each week.

The city of Edmonds' strict no reselling or selling imported goods at the market is intended to focus on supporting small, local businesses who provide patrons with a wide selection of goods to shop.

The market runs Saturdays from 9 a.m. through 2 p.m. at the Edmonds Historical Museum located at 118 5th Avenue North.

Vendors must have a valid WA state business license, have business and product liability insurance, and all required permits from the Department of Health and Agriculture. Email Market-Info@historicedmonds.org for information on how to apply.

EVERETT

Everett Farmers Market's 31st season returns this upcoming Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12 at the heart of downtown Everett located on Hewitt and Wetmore Avenues, stretching to Pacific Avenue.

At Everett Farmer's Market a wide variety of goods can be purchased from homemade jewelry; to handmade dolls; to candles; to of course farm fresh goods such as meat, eggs, produce, and honey.

Food trucks will also offer a quick, delicious, curb to whatever appetite is wetted by perusing delicious goods including Panda Dim Sum, CaribBean Cuisine, 88 Cues Filipino food, and Cute Dumplings.

Live music performances top off the day featuring local banjo and fiddle player Eric R Kosarot, and guitarist/pianist Mark Goldberg.

The market will be open from 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. each Sunday.

SNOHOMISH

For a weekday late afternoon, evening, option consider checking out the Snohomish Farmers Market which runs every Thursday, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., on the corner of Cedar and Pearl avenues in the city of Snohomish.

This year's Snohomish Farmers Market will be its 32nd year featuring fresh produce, artisan foods, a food truck court, live music, and so much more.

The farmer's market is always looking to attract new vendors. For interested parties please review the market's rules and guidelines, which also includes information on how to apply.

WOODINVILLE

Though not a Snohomish County farmers market, Woodinville Farmers Market is only a quick 20-minute drive from Lynnwood. Besides, Woodinville has over 130 wineries so what better excuse to shop for fresh produce before or after indulging in a local wine tasting (or two or three)?

Since 1993, the Woodinville Farmers Market has been serving up more than just groceries. It's grown into a vibrant community hub, complete with entertainment, educational demos, and plenty of opportunities to connect with fellow foodies. It's now a vibrant festival that brings the Woodinville community and visitors from near and far together for entertainment, music, and educational demonstrations.

Woodinville's Farmers Market runs every Saturday from May until September from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The Market is located on Festival Street in the Schoolhouse District, and up on the Lawn of District Flats. In downtown Woodinville near the ball fields and City Hall.

Debris thrown from Lynnwood overpass strikes vehicle



Debris on the seat of a vehicle after it was thrown from the 164 St overpass of I-5 on April 30, 2024. SOURCE: WSP

By WASHINGTON STATE PATROL

LYNNWOOD—The Washington State Patrol (WSP) is actively seeking information related to metal debris being thrown from an overpass onto Interstate 5, striking a vehicle. The incident occurred at 6:57 a.m. on April 30, 2024, on 164th St SW over northbound Interstate 5.

An unknown male pedestrian was observed on the 164th St SW overpass throwing debris onto Interstate 5. A black Acura SUV was northbound on Interstate 5 passing under 164th St SW when it was struck by a large steel beam approximately 51 inches long.

The steel beam went through the front windshield and came to rest in the front passenger area of the Acura (see photo above of the steel beam).

WSP is asking witnesses of the collision or anyone who observed a pedestrian throwing debris from 164th St SW to call (360) 654-1144. Your assistance is appreciated as troopers work to locate the suspect.

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WDI submits amicus brief to Court of Appeals in defense of Olympus Spa

BY KIENAN BRISCOE



Kara Dansky



Link to interview between Kara Dansky and Peter Boghossian

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Women's Declaration International's USA Chapter has submitted an amicus brief (otherwise known as a friend of the court) to the U.S. 9th District Court of Appeals in defense of Olympus Spa, a Lynnwood-based business currently entangled in a human rights commission battle.

WDI is an explicitly non-partisan feminist group created by women, for women, and led by a group of volunteer women dedicated to protecting women's "sex-based rights," its website states. The organization has been criticized for being "anti-trans," or TERF in the past most notably by Southern Poverty Law Group who, in turn, has been criticized for being a "hate-based scam." TERF is a derogatory acronym for trans-exclusionary radical feminist.

In June 2023, a Western Washington District Court judge ordered Olympus Spa to allow pre-op transwomen access to its female-exclusive facilities after a complaint filed with the Washington State Human Rights Commission (WSHRC). A rally in support of the spa commenced that July.

Olympus Spa, located on 196th Street near the Lynnwood Event Center, is fashioned after "Jjimjilbang" — a health and wellness facility where patrons are required to be nude in some procedures

per its Korean-inspired tradition. Because of this, it has held the requirement for members to have female genitalia — a requirement held throughout its 20 years of operation. Transgender women are only admitted at Olympus Spa if they have undergone post-operative sex confirmation surgery.

Transwoman Haven Wilvich sought access to the Lynnwood spa in 2020 but was allegedly told that her request was declined because, "transgender women without surgery are not welcome because it could make other customers and staff uncomfortable."

Wilvich felt discriminated against by this dismissal and took the issue up with the WSHRC in February of 2020. The commission then sent notice of the complaint to Olympus Spa in November of 2020. In March 2021, Olympus received a second complaint, this time requesting a written response by the spa owner.

In section two of WDI's brief the organization makes the argument that Washington State cannot both enforce a public accommodation law that allows "naked men" to be in the presence of naked women and also enforce its criminal laws.

"If the District Court is correct that Washington State law requires Olympus Spa to admit naked men into a nude women's spa it's very difficult to see how the state of Washington, including local law enforcement agencies, can also enforce criminal laws that include voyeurism and indecent exposure," Kara Dansky, President of the U.S. Chapter at WDI and Council in the amicus, told the Lynnwood Times. "We just wanted to advise the court and really encourage the court to consider that argument."

Washington's Washington Law Against Discrimination (WLDA), RCW 49.60,

protects all people in Washington from unfair and discriminatory practices in employment, real estate transactions, public accommodations, credit, insurance, as well as health care whistleblower, and state employee whistleblower complaints. The statute further states that those protected under this law include, but are not limited to, gender (including gender identity).

In the entirety of WDI's brief the organization refused to refer to Haven Wilvich as a woman — her chosen gender identity. When asked if WDI was aware that Wilvich has since undergone bottom surgery and whether that designation still applies, Dansky told the Lynnwood Times: "That doesn't change the fact that he's a man."

"Our entire society—globally, including the U.S. judiciary—appears to be gripped by the idea that there is a category of people called "transgender" who are somehow members of the opposite sex, members of a nonexistent third sex, or for whom the category of sex is irrelevant—even though most people know sex is real and relevant in various situations," the amicus states. "One facet of this phenomenon is that laws are being amended to redefine sex (or, in the case of Washington state, sexual orientation) to include concepts like "gender expression" or "gender identity." The truth that must be confronted is that sex is a material reality affecting many aspects of human life, even if some people claim to have identities that are different from their sex."

The Washington State Human Rights campaign has already filed its response brief and the Olympus Spa appellants also can reply to the WHRC. At some point the 9th Circuit is likely to schedule oral arguments but as of now there is no way to predict the timeline imposed by the court, as far as whether the battle will move to trial or not.

The District Court of the Western District of Washington dismissed the plaintiff's complaint and the plaintiff's appeal.

According to Dansky these types of cases can take a long time to resolve so it's unlikely to see any resolution in the short term. As far as how long, she couldn't say but she added "we're at least talking months."

Dansky has been a "lifelong Democrat and political progressive," she shared and spent a number of years in the progressive criminal reform community following law school including reform against mass incarceration.

In 2015 she joined an organization called the Women's Liberation Front, an unapologetically radical feminist organization where she spent four years on its board. She stepped down in 2020 to shift her focus on the international efforts of what was later to become Women's Declaration International (WDI).

"WDI USA thinks it's vitally important that places of public accommodation, as well as schools, be able to maintain single sex facilities, including nude spas, including public bathrooms, including school bathrooms, locker rooms, all of those places where nudity and vulnerability is expected need to be single sex and that women and girls have fought for the right to have single sex spaces and we don't intend to give them up," said Dansky.

Typically, when submitting amicus briefs that ends an organization, or entity's, involvement in a case but Dansky informed the Lynnwood Times that if the court were to request WDI involvement in the case further they would "respond appropriately."

from page 1 JASON CALL

a linked-arm wall of both students and community members, determined to prevent police from removing the encampment.

"We stood with the students in solidarity as the police closed in, assaulted us with their bicycles, took us to the ground, zip tied us, and took approximately 80 of us to St Louis County jail," Call told the Lynnwood Times. "I stand by our action and support the student demands for their university to divest from Boeing, as Boeing manufactures munitions used in the genocide in Gaza at their nearby St. Charles facility."

Call and Stein spent about six hours in police custody before being released. They both face charges of trespassing with Stein being charged with assault.

The Call campaign has been canvassing throughout the Second Congressional District and has been holding community events since January, Call told the Lynnwood Times.

Call advocated for a ceasefire in Gaza and an end to all aid, including and es-

pecially military aid to Israel which, he believes, is in violation of international laws. He further criticized President Joe Biden for supplying arms to a nation which, he said, has violated international laws, including the Leahy Rule.

"You don't get to hold up a paltry amount of humanitarian aid on one hand while providing five times more in weapons on the other hand. It's a farce written in the blood of children. Joe Biden is violating our own law by continuing to supply arms to a nation that is violating international law," said Call.

Just one day before his arrest, the Marysville-based Green Party candidate publicly called on Lynnwood City Councilman and challenger Josh Binda to step down from the congressional race - just 10 days before the filing deadline.

He cited Binda not having yet filed his FEC report which indicates he has raised less than the minimum threshold of \$5,000—requiring a filing with the Federal Election Commission—as one of his reasons.

Binda has said in response that he does not intend to follow Call's suggestion to

drop out of the race and is not required to file an FEC disclosure. Still, Call claims that a serious candidate for a congressional seat should have evidence of some financial backing and community support at just days before to the start of the May 6 filing week.

"I've known Josh for years. I respect him and align with him on many progressive values. I'm confident that Josh will have a prominent and impactful role to play in local and national politics in the coming years, but the stakes of this current election are too high to split the progressive vote," said Call. "Removing Rick Larsen from office at this critical moment when our climate, the economy for working people, and justice for the Palestinian people demand it, should be the first order of business for any public servant in our district."

In 2020 and 2022 Call's campaign reached over 30,000 voters—2.5 times more than any other progressive challenger who has challenged incumbent Representative Larsen in the past.

Call claims he has been consistently fighting for progressive values for some 34 years and is attuned with the needs of

CD 2 residents more than Larsen who he has criticized for being more interested in "corporate politics."

Call slammed Larsen for taking "more than half of his campaign funding from corporate PACs, lobbyists, and corporate executives," as well as his approach to "deregulating" the airline manufacturing industry, voting for the Bankruptcy Reform Act, and "undermining the legitimate business operations of legal dispensaries and fighting against federal decriminalization" of the marijuana industry, among other things.

"Larsen's brand of corporate politics represents a clear and present danger to our continued survival in the face of a climate emergency. The progressive movement must unite behind the campaign best positioned to remove him and take us forward — our campaign," said Call. "A Republican will not win the WA02 seat, ever. And this district, with our campaign, offers the best opportunity in the country to put the first crack in the stranglehold of corporate power that grips both major parties by electing the first Green Party member to Congress."

Volunteers of America and Rick Steves break ground on new Lynnwood Neighborhood Center

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—Several community partners, including Volunteers of America Western Washington, travel writer Rick Steves, Snohomish County, the cities of Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, and Edmonds, and state and federal delegates, broke ground on the new Lynnwood Neighborhood Center at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood, Thursday, April 18 – commemorating a project ten years in the making.

Volunteers of America’s new Lynnwood Neighborhood Center is set to begin construction this year which will serve over 20,000 community members annually, from the most vulnerable needing support to at-risk children and youth.

“The Lynnwood Neighborhood Center is a true partnership between the faith community, the local businesses, the local community members and the state and local government” said Representative Cindy Ryu (D-Shoreline).

The Neighborhood Center will be a 40,000 square-foot Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified facility on 2.13 acres of land in central Lynnwood. The design is intended to be flexible enough to change as community needs evolve for generations to come.

Located at 6330 195th Street Southwest in Lynnwood, the Center will also serve as a vibrant hub where neighbors



Groundbreaking of the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center on Thursday, April 18, 2024. SOURCE: Kienan Briscoe.

can meet, learn, and serve, building, and sustaining, safe, stable, and healthy communities for generations to come. Phase I of the project, which encompassed site preparation, reached completion back in 2019. The \$26.6 million project is nearly fully funded with only \$3 million left to go.

Volunteers of AMERICA—which assists with food banks, rent and utility assistance, crisis counseling, mediation, and ECEAP preschool—plans to kick off a Community Fundraising Campaign at the beginning of construction this spring with the goal of raising \$2.5 million to ensure the project will be debt free open opening. This would allow

non-profit partners below maker lease rates, Kristi Meyers, Chief Operations Officer for VOA, told the Lynnwood Times.

“Congratulations to the Volunteers of America Western Washington for breaking ground on the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center!” said Rep. Rick Larsen (D-Everett) in a statement to the Lynnwood Times. “Thanks in part to federal earmark funding and the hard work of VOAWW and community partners, local residents will soon have a central location to access early learning and youth programs, health services, job training and other critical community services.”

In 2023, Representative Larsen secured \$3 million in for the center with the passage of the omnibus spending package.


The VOA Lynnwood Neighborhood Center is a collaboration between Volunteers of America, Trinity Lutheran Church, renown author and travel writer Rick Steves, and the Greater South Snohomish County community at large.

Thursday’s event began with a few words by Trinity Lutheran Church Pastor Hector Garfias-Toledo who led the, approximately, 500 attendees through a prayer before inviting Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee to the stage.


“The hope and the vision that we have of the thousands upon thousands of people who will be impacted by what is happening in this room today,” said Pastor Bryan Wee. “There is nothing that brings me greater joy than to see collaboration, and that is what is happening here between the different cities, the churches, and civic organizations that came together and said what is it that we can do to make Lynnwood and this world better?”

Volunteers of America’s President and CEO, Brian Smith, shared that the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center will not only serve the people of Lynnwood but all of South Snohomish County at large.

Continued PAGE 11 >>



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Opinion: Edmonds Schools, commit to saving the arts!

To Edmonds School District officials and members of the School Board,

As members of the broad and diverse community served by the Edmonds School District, we wish to register our distress at the pending cuts to arts and music programs. You, as educators, know as well as we do that art, music, drama and other arts are vital to a full educational experience. This is not merely our heartfelt

conviction; it is a fact supported by rigorous research.

For example, a recent large scale randomized controlled study by Brookings in 42 Houston schools found that students in arts programs had significantly fewer disciplinary infractions, significantly better writing scores, and elevated compassion for others compared to the control groups.

We do understand that schools today face competing priorities and serious financial pressures.

We, and others in the community, are prepared to support the continuation of vital arts education, and the retention of dedicated and valuable teaching staff, while the district works through its budget difficulties. But we expect, and insist, that the schools we are committed to support

with our dollars and our votes plan to restore funding of these invaluable arts programs as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Edmonds School District parents and citizens committed to saving the arts,

Deborah Brandi
Dr. Jack Faris
Joe DeMiero
Kathy Liu
Daniel Johnson
Ryan Crowther
Nancy Ekrem

Erika Barnett
Nate Omdal
Jonathan Gipaya
Dee Daniels
Brett Holt
Carolyn Harvey
Daniel & Jennifer Castle
Paul Burton
Tara Fly
George Smith
Kim Siegrist
Tiffany Hanson
Deborah McCarthy
Jennifer Coons
Mark Coons
Jacob Coons
Nathan Coons
Dave Whiteman

Maya Hemachandra
Scott Johnson
Jennifer Tait
Thera & Joshua Knapp
Rick Steves
Jeremey Shultz
Margaret Shultz
Paul Burton
Michael & Bonnie Britt
Leah Jones
Michele Grant
Rae Ann Walthers
April Kaivo
Erica Dearstynne
Kristen Ho
Taj Isono
Michelle Gordon
Kim Varner
Continued Page X>>

from page 3 **MINI EINSTEIN**

race, was set to be demolished. Having nowhere else to go, Cornerstone inevitably shut down after 20 years of operation, leaving its seven teachers, including Sciacca, without jobs, its 30 kids with nowhere to go, and one fewer childcare center in Snohomish County.

Only about 44 percent of childcare need is currently being met in Snohomish County. What's more, Snohomish County saw a 25 percent drop in its early learning workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sciacca's husband, William, was deployed at the time with the U.S. Army. She asked him how he felt about opening up a childcare center of their own when he returned and he replied: "sure without knowing what he was getting into," Samantha joked.

"I didn't have a business degree, all I had was a vision of what I think students need getting into kindergarten — and that's an education," said Sciacca. "And all of my teachers [at Cornerstone] said they were coming with me."

In 2013 the foundation of what was eventually to become Mini Einstein's started out at Woodway Elementary School, a vacant building at the time, where they had a license capacity of 76 kids. When Sciacca's husband returned from active duty he assisted with operations and maintenance and from there

they grew and grew. Today Mini Einstein's Early Learning Center (MELC) has 136 enrolled students and operates year-round.

"Our foundation is really about that education. We start our education at infancy. I have a lot of people discredit that just because a child can't talk they can't learn and that's completely, one hundred percent, opposite. Students can begin to learn at such a young age as long as you give them the tools and the foundation to do so," said Sciacca.

"That's what makes us so different. We start so young and every year we're building on top of each other, by breaking up our classrooms into two separate age groups—a younger and older —so we can hone in on those fundamentals and benchmarks so we're not moving them too early if they haven't met those standards, and possibly moving them early than projected because we're seeing that they're going faster than the others. We want to keep challenging and pushing our students to succeed."

In 2015 Mini Einstein found, what they call, the "main campus" on 21020 67th Avenue West, in Lynnwood, Washington.

"I never once saw myself saying, when I was 18 going into college, that I'm going to be a businesswoman, I'm going to have 50 employees, that I'm going to own a school," said Sciacca.

Ashley Morga, Operations Manager at Mini Einstein's, first got involved with the early learning center as a parent enrolling her child. She informed the Lynnwood Times it was witnessing, firsthand, how her daughter benefitted from the school that made her want to be a part of Mini Einstein's success.

"She started with the pre-K program but by the time she entered Kindergarten she was beyond ready," said Morga. "She was bored the first two months of kindergarten because she said 'Mom I already know all of this.' She knew her alphabet, she knew her letters, her numbers, basic addition/subtraction, how to read. She could focus on getting to know her new friends, her new teacher, her new environment and wasn't worried about the academics. I still see that in each group that comes

out. It's such a well-rounded program."

Back in March Mini Einstein was awarded \$1,847,370 million from the Washington State Department of Commerce which was used to purchase the building. When the building officially opens on May 1, it will add 124 new childcare slots in Snohomish County.

For parents interested in enrolling their kids, please visit their website at <https://minieinsteinslearningcenter.com/> to request a tour.

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

The Lynnwood Times wants to know what issues you would like us investigate Email editorial@lynnwoodtimes.com.

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PAWS Wildlife Center opens new facility

By KIENAN BRISCOE

SNOHOMISH—Lynnwood-based PAWS Wildlife Center held a ribbon cutting ceremony Saturday, April 20, for its brand-new, state-of-the-art rehabilitation facility in Snohomish which, when it opens on May 15, will be the largest wildlife center in Washington State.

Since 1981 PAWS Wildlife Center has rehabilitated over 140,000 different injured animals and reintroduced them back into the wild. But for the last 25 years rapid urbanization, an increase in nearby forest fires, and the center’s limited size has left the Lynnwood-based facility grossly unequipped to serve the region’s increasing need for wildlife care.

To address this issue, PAWS purchased three parcels of land stretching across 25-acres on the top of an evergreen enshrouded hilltop in Snohomish 10 years ago located at 13508 State Route 9 SE. The facility itself totals a whopping 21,512 square footage of space. Compared to the organization’s current 3 acres of space in Lynnwood.

“We are excited to open our doors to community leaders and showcase the incredible advancements we’re making in wildlife rehabilitation,” said State Rep. Strom Peterson, who serves as a volunteer on the PAWS Board of Directors. “This event honors our collective commitment to caring for our native wildlife in a changing world.”

“PAWS has needed a facility away from urban development for years, which would be best for wild animals to rehabilitate, away from urban sounds, and urban smells, so that animals can peacefully rehabilitate, get well, after they’ve been injured, to live successful lives away from humans and independently,” Heidi Wills, PAWS CEO, told the Lynnwood Times. “PAWS chose Snohomish because it’s close enough that if people found an animal injured or orphaned,



PAWS Wildlife Center ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, April 20, for its brand new, state-of-the-art rehabilitation facility in Snohomish. SOURCE: PAWS.

they’re willing to drive to PAWS for care and medical attention, but it’s still far enough from the urban center that it feels like a remote location...It was really an ideal set of circumstances that this location was chosen.”

The upcoming Wildlife Center includes recovery habitats for corvids and songbirds, small mammals, small and medium raptors, raccoons, large carnivores, small and medium carnivores, large raptors, and even seals and aquatic birds. The Center will be the only facility in Washington permitted to rehabilitate both black bears and marine mammals such as seals and one of very few facilities in the state permitted to heal wild birds harmed by oil spills.

This new Wildlife Center will vastly increase PAWS’ ability to care for more wild animals having the capacity to hold up to 30 bears (6 at the current Lynnwood site), 20 bobcats (10 currently), and 200 seabirds (100 currently), just to name a few. Each of these habitats are custom built for wild animals and designed to evolve with an animals’ needs as they change during rehabilitation.

Just a few examples of these custom-tailored habitats include a large silo where

large raptors (such as eagles and hawks) can conduct continual, 360-degree, flight for exercise, cylindrical raccoon enclosures (preventing raccoons from cornering each other mitigating aggressive tendencies), and large indoor and outdoor habitats separated by electronically locked doors. The doors also help to reduce human/animal interaction by allowing volunteers and staff to feed the animals in the inside section, while the animal is outside, so the animals do not begin to associate humans with food.

These larger, and more flexible, enclosures greatly reduce visual and auditory stress on animals, PAWS says, allowing for more enrichment.

The site will also have a state-of-the-art Wildlife Hospital, featuring a surgical facility, spacious examination room, radiology room, treatment rooms, and a laboratory to run in-house diagnostics, a Wildlife Care Unit where animals can receive quality care, offices, and a lobby.

Separate to the increase in space, by relocating the Wildlife Center to its new location in Snohomish, atop a tree-compassed hill, these recovering wild animals are tucked away from the urban sights, smells, and sounds they’re cur-

rently subjected to in Lynnwood.

PAWS’ Wildlife Center provides expert care to 5,000 wild animals, and over 250 different species, every year, giving them the second chance they deserve. However, in just the last five years the number of calls from the community to PAWS for wildlife assistance, education, and advice has increased by 75%.

The organization has stretched to meet the needs of the animals but are now at a critical point of capacity. In addition to the lack of space, aging wildlife facilities are at the end of their lifespan and in dire need of replacement. What’s more, PAWS has been consistently turning away participating in critical conservation research and training that could help save more animals around the globe, simply because their highly regarded wildlife veterinarian training program has increasingly outpaced its ability to respond to requests from students. The new facility in Snohomish aims to change all of that.

At last Saturday’s event a group of approximately 300 attendees gathered on a bright and sunny day in front of the upcoming facility to hear some words by the PAWS team before being granted the opportunity to tour the facility in its entirety. This was the last chance the public had to tour the facility before animals begin to transfer in from Lynnwood over the next couple of weeks.

Once the Wildlife Center officially opens in May, most of the center will be closed to the public in order to offer its animals the best chance of being rehabilitated and eventually reintroduced back into the wild.

PAWS’ new Wildlife Center will have about 280 volunteers, who will prepare food and clean the habitats among other responsibilities, and about 22 full-time staff members. PAWS is always in need of more volunteers. To apply visit: <https://www.paws.org/volunteer/>.

from page 1 SALARY COMMISSION

The methodology of rightsizing, utilized by the Salary Commission, sought to increase the salaries of the County Executive and Sheriff relative to their respective highest paid staff person. For the County Executive, it would be his Deputy County Executive at \$245,584; whereas for the Sheriff, it would be to her Undersheriff at \$235,049, both with an additional 1 percent starting January 1, 2025. The Deputy County Executive and Undersheriff position are both appointed by the County Executive and Sheriff respectively.

“Recognizing that these are 2024 comps that we are comparing 2024 salaries and trying to predict 2025, I will be in favor of considering [inflation] if it is 2.5%, 3% or whatever that might be, but applying that figure to the average for all of the positions with a commitment to bring all of them to that same point,” Commissioner Megan Hodgson said. “Again, with the interest of trying to maintain that appropriate placement in the market for the roles.”

After some discussion, the agreed upon methodology by the commission at its Thursday, April 25, meeting, that was applied to all positions including that of the Snohomish County Sheriff, was first taking the greater of a 5 percent increase (5%) or the average of the comparable

Snohomish County Elected Position	Current Salary (2024)	Comparable Average	2025 Salary	2025 Salary Increase	2026 Salary	2026 Salary Increase
County Council Executive	↓ \$210,700	\$225,778	\$231,422.45	\$20,722; 9.84%	\$242,993.57	\$11,571; 5.00%
County Council	↑ \$140,763	\$140,365	\$151,496.18	\$10,733; 7.63%	\$159,070.99	\$7,575; 5.00%
County Council President	↔ \$154,839	N/A	\$166,645.80	\$11,806; 7.63%	\$174,978.09	\$8,332; 5.00%
Assessor	↓ \$155,436	\$160,542	\$167,288.00	\$11,852; 7.63%	\$175,652.40	\$8,364; 5.00%
Auditor	↓ \$155,436	\$165,754	\$169,897.85	\$14,462; 9.30%	\$178,392.74	\$8,495; 5.00%
Clerk	↓ \$155,436	\$162,433	\$167,288.00	\$11,852; 7.63%	\$175,652.40	\$8,364; 5.00%
Prosecuting Attorney	↑ \$222,064	\$200,134	\$238,996.38	\$16,932; 7.63%	\$250,946.20	\$11,950; 5.00%
Sheriff	↓ \$184,219	\$214,454	\$219,815.35	\$35,596; 19.32%	\$230,806.12	\$10,991; 5.00%
Treasurer	↓ \$155,436	\$158,680	\$167,288.00	\$11,852; 7.63%	\$175,652.40	\$8,364; 5.00%

Table of approved salaries by the 2024 Salary Commission. SOURCE: Compiled by the Lynnwood Times by data supplied during the meeting. The arrows graphically depict the comparison of the current salary to that of the comparable average salary. A down arrow is defined as a current salary lower than comparable average, an up arrow is opposite.

salary rates. Then an additional two and one-half percent (2.5%) was added to account for inflation during 2024. Data shows that, historically, Snohomish County elected officials have been paid lower than their counterparts in other jurisdictions and the 2.5% adjustment aims to “fixed” this disparity.

The proposal also has all positions with a 5 percent increase for January 1, 2026. The commission agreed to a 10 percent increase in addition to the agreed 2025 and 2026 compensation schedule only

for the position of Snohomish County Council Chair. The 10 percent increase is aligned to figures for the Chair position in prior years and is to reflect the additional duties of the role.

Below is a summary of the approved 2025 and 2026 Salary Schedule by the commission that will take effect on January 1, 2025.

The overall increase for 2025 will be 9.5 percent and five percent for 2026. The only driving factor for the 19.32 percent

increase in the Sheriff’s position for 2025 was due to the sizeable disparity in salary when compared to comparable salaries from nearby and similar jurisdictions of Clark, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Skagit, Thurston, and Whatcom counties and the Chief of Police salaries for Everett and Seattle.

Charlotte Murry, Chair of the Salary Commission, thanked all members for participating in the commission and accomplishing their duties.

FTC bans noncompetes nationwide, US Chamber of Commerce files lawsuit

By MARIO LOTMORE

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the federal agency responsible for policing and preventing unfair competitive practices in commerce, announced a new rule, on April 23, banning the use and enforcement of noncompetes nationwide.

The FTC Commissioners determined that noncompetes are an unfair method of competition, and therefore violated Section 5 of the FTC Act.

The ruling states that in relation to the Federal Trade Commission Act: “The final rule provides that it is an unfair method of competition—and therefore a violation of section 5—for persons to, among other things, enter into non-compete clauses (“non-competes”) with workers on or after the final rule’s effective date.”

However, for senior executives of companies who are in existing non-competes prior to the effective date, “existing non-competes can remain in force.” The FTC clarified that existing noncompetes for all other workers are no longer enforceable and employers are prohibited from entering into or enforcing new noncompetes with senior executives. The final rule will become effective 120 days after publication in the Federal Register.

The Commission hopes this new rule will generate over 8,500 new businesses each year, raise worker wages, lower health care costs, and boost innovation.

“Noncompete clauses keep wages low, suppress new ideas, and rob the American economy of dynamism, including from the more than 8,500 new startups that would be created a year once non-

competes are banned,” said FTC Chair Lina Khan. “The FTC’s final rule to ban noncompetes will ensure Americans have the freedom to pursue a new job, start a new business, or bring a new idea to market.”

Additionally, the Commission eliminated a provision in its draft that would have required employers to legally modify existing noncompetes by formally rescinding them. That change, according to the FTC, will aid in streamlining compliance. Employers are now required to provide notice to workers bound to existing noncompetes that their noncompete agreement is no longer enforceable.

The Commission vote to approve the issuance of the final rule was split, 3-2, with Commissioners Lina Khan, Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, and Alvaro Bedoya voting in the affirmative; and Melissa Holyoak and Andrew Ferguson dissenting.

“I do not believe we have the power to nullify tens of millions of existing contracts; to preempt the laws of forty-six States; to declare categorically unlawful a species of contract that was lawful when the Federal Trade Commission Act (FTC Act) was adopted in 1914; and to declare those contracts unlawful across the whole country irrespective of their terms, conditions, historical contexts, and competitive effects. Accordingly, I respectfully dissent,” wrote FTC Commissioner Andrew Ferguson in a statement on the ruling.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has filed a lawsuit alleging that the FTC overstepped its authority.

“Like many of the rules, the FTC’s blanket ban on noncompetes defies

its agency’s constitutional and statutory authority, shifting power from Congress and into the hands of three unelected commissioners,” wrote Suzanne Clark, President and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, in a statement. “The FTC only has the authority to identify specific, individual instances of unfair competition on a case-by-case basis, but Chairwoman Lina Khan has decried this approach as ‘whack-a-mole’ and pledged instead to lay down prescriptive, often one-size-fits-all rules, without letting the Constitution stand in her way.”

According to the FTC, nearly 30 million American workers are subject to a noncomplete clause or agreement. The FTC estimates that the final rule banning noncompetes will lead to new business formation growing by 2.7% per year, resulting in more than 8,500 additional new businesses being created each year.

“The final rule is expected to result in higher earnings for workers, with estimated earnings increasing for the average worker by an additional \$524 per year, and it is expected to lower health care costs by up to \$194 billion over the next decade,” the FTC released in its statement. “In addition, the final rule is expected to help drive innovation, leading to an estimated average increase of 17,000 to 29,000 more patents each year for the next 10 years under the final rule.”

The Commission shared that employers can still utilize trade secret laws and non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) in lieu of noncompetes to protect proprietary and other sensitive information.

In elaborating as to why it is suing the FTC, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce

wrote, “the FTC has never been granted the constitutional and statutory authority to write its own competition rules. This decision sets a dangerous precedent for government micromanagement of business.”

“The Chamber’s lawsuit against the FTC is our latest effort to challenge the Administration’s aggressive campaign to micromanage business decisions,” wrote Clark, President and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. “It follows our victories against the Securities and Exchange Commission over its stock buyback rule, the National Labor Relations Board over its joint-employer rule, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau over its rule on ‘Unfair, Deceptive, or Abusive Acts or Practices.’”

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world’s largest business organization advocating for small businesses, chambers of commerce, and global corporations across the country. The chamber has criticized the Biden Administration for imposing \$1.033 billion in net regulatory costs on the economy (\$201 billion in 2021 + \$117 billion in 2022 + \$129 billion in 2023 + \$616 billion in 2024).

“The business community has rightly decried overregulation for years, prompting some critics to accuse us of crying wolf,” Clark wrote. “Today, there’s no question that the wolf is here. The regulatory agencies are redefining the relationship between business and government without heed to elected representatives or the Constitution. The U.S. Chamber will see these agencies in court.”

WA state to offer up to a \$9,000 rebate for new and used EVs

By WA DEPT OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONS FROM MARIO LOTMORE

OLYMPIA—The choice and benefits of driving electric vehicles (EVs) are about to become more affordable to many Washingtonians, due to a new \$45 million state program announced by Governor Jay Inslee on Tuesday, April 23, that will provide an instant rebate of up to \$9,000 to eligible residents purchasing or leasing an electric vehicle. The Washington EV Instant Rebate opens in August 2024.



Scan to learn more

Governor Inslee shared that goal of the EV rebate program is to “democratize EVs.”

“Washington state is already a leader in EV adoption, but many more people interested in ditching the gas pump may think they can’t afford to do it,” Governor Inslee said. “With these new rebates, we’re significantly lowering the entry point, opening the door to EVs for people of modest incomes as we continue paving the way to a clean

transportation future for all.”

Inslee added that electric vehicles are “easy, very motive, and you can’t get enough of them!” He shared that the rebates are possible by the Climate Commitment Act.

Washington is the first state to prioritize low-cost leases as part of an EV incentive program. Under the new program, Washington residents earning up to \$45,180 annually for a single person or \$93,600 for family of four, are eligible to receive up to \$9,000 for a new EV lease of three years or more, or up to \$5,000 for new EV purchases or two-year leases. Used EVs are also eligible for a \$2,500 rebate on both purchases and leases.

“Transportation is the biggest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and harmful air pollution,” Washington State Department of Commerce Director Mike Fong said. “It is important that people who live in our most-impacted communities, which tend to be urban and lower income, have access to cleaner transportation options, including the choice of EV ownership. These rebates can help many more people all across the state buy or lease an EV.”

In an example estimate based on advertised lease deals in April that combine federal government and automaker incentives, the added Washington EV Instant Rebate program could make lease payments on at least four EV models less than \$100 a month with no down payment for qualifying consumers. In comparison, monthly payments for the most commonly leased gas cars average about \$500 per month, according to recent data from Experian.

For more information about the Washington EV Instant Rebate program for consumers, visit the Commerce webpage.

HOW THE REBATE FOR EVS WILL WORK

Interested consumers will go to a dealer to learn about low-cost lease offers available under the state instant rebate program. The dealer will get a signed attestation that the buyer meets the income requirements of the program, and determine that their credit score qualifies for a lease deal on offer. With that, the dealer deducts the applicable rebate amount from the cost of the lease and then applies dealer, state and local

fees to arrive at the total lease amount. There is no state sales tax because the vehicles qualify for the state’s zero-emission vehicles exemption up to \$15,000 in lease payments.

For example: A dealer is advertising a three-year lease at \$239 per month with \$1,999 due at signing – for a total lease cost of \$10,364 (\$1,999 + \$239 x 35 months). For the qualifying customer, a \$9,000 state EV Instant Rebate brings the lease cost down to \$1,364. The dealer applies a \$500 lease fee, \$200 documentation fee, and collects state and local transit, title and registration fees of \$734, making the final lease total \$2,798, or \$78 per month over the 36-month agreement.

The rebate program will collaborate with automakers and dealers to offer the low-cost EV leasing and point-of-sale rebates. Together, these opportunities make EVs more accessible to a broader range of people. Dealers who participate in the program can also receive incentives for promoting EV adoption. Additionally, the program will provide EV charging education through a variety of consumer aware-

Continued PAGE 11 >>

from page 7 **SAVE THE ARTS**

Erich Simmons
 Emiko Burns
 Kimberly Lee
 Kristina Jipson
 Dennis & Charlene Handa
 Darin Faul
 Vince DeMiero
 Dennis & Charlene Handa
 Rachel Powell
 Kathy Henning
 Michael Williams
 Desmond Williams
 Maysy Williams
 Angela Johnston
 Sarah Richard
 Linda Grez
 Rebecca & Shaun Hulbert
 Lynn & Frank Blosser
 Katrina Paulette Navarro
 Jessica Brady
 Sharon Ryder
 Toni Bosman
 Melissa & Tim Reed
 Jenine Rittierodt
 Chelsea Stanciu
 Sally Ralston
 Rachael & John Garrette
 Deirdre K. & Raven Mimura
 David Gravender
 Synnove Tusvik Johnson
 Shannon & Shane McDowell
 Jeanette Green
 Candy & Charlie Gaul
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 Steve Treseler
 Lynn C. Treseler
 Georgi Jenkins
 Lynda Gable
 Robin Rousu
 Mike Byers
 Nathan Irby
 Emily Jeffers
 Bryan & Zoe Manzo

Sarah Phin
 Sherry Chitwood
 Mike Hayford
 Will Harvey
 Ami Samuels
 Karl & Shawna Bogren
 Kendra Anderson
 Vicki Lockhart
 Linaya Bunbury Matt & Sarah Rudberg
 Sheryl Copeland
 Ryan Copeland
 Reese Copeland
 Kandra Miller
 Andy Roben
 Sophie Roben
 Jack Roben
 Chad James
 Charles James
 Cascadia Youth Symphony
 Leah Park
 Traci Thorpe
 Tjelle Johnson
 Susie Cover
 Maria Patricia Espinoza Landa
 Maria Lourdes Espinoza Landa
 Diorella Soriano
 Fanta Sillah
 Tara Fly
 Agi VanHorn
 Matt VanHorn
 Siana VanHorn
 Nikolai VanHorn
 Patti Case
 Rachel Yoder
 Audrey Choe
 Chris Choe
 Rebecca L Felman
 Janet Pope
 Lauren Park
 Randa Zaitz
 Dave Dolacky
 Angie Acheson
 Jennifer Thomas

from page 2 **ROWLAND**

minated their efforts when he swerved across a grass median going the wrong way on SR-525, near Highway 99 in Lynnwood. Within minutes, he crashed into 83-year-old Trudy Slanger killing her instantly.

TRUDY SLANGER: LYNNWOOD MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER

Slanger was a mother, grandmother, and widow of Gary Slanger who passed away five years earlier. According to her obituary, she dedicated her life to spreading love and joy to those around her.

She loved music and dancing and worked as an orthodontic assistant in downtown Seattle to support her husband through dental school.

Trudy was known for being generous, social, and was considered the life of the party at social gatherings. She would often have people over to her house on Lake Serene which, her obituary reads, was always filled with joy and laughter. She was also an active Elks Club member.

She's survived by her children, Brett Slanger, Jami Szurek, and Lisa Russell, as well as her five grandchildren.

A celebration of Trudy's life is scheduled for Friday, May 10, at the Acacia Memorial Park and Funeral Home. Trudy's family asks those who want to make a donation, make it to the Sanctuary Church in Lynnwood.

"Trudy's warmth, kindness, and infectious laughter touched the lives of all who knew her. She leaves behind a

legacy of love and joy that will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to have known her," her obituary reads.

ROBERT CRAIG ROWLAND EXTENSIVE CRIMINAL RECORD

Adult Felony Convictions:

- 3/7/06: Attempt Second Degree Robbery (C), King County, 16.5 Mos. Confinement
- 1/24/17: First Degree Theft (B), Cowlitz County, 45 Mos Confinement
- 1/24/17: Attempting to Elude Police Vehicle (C), Cowlitz County, 22 Mos Confinement
- 1/24/17: **VUCSA – Possession (C), Cowlitz County, 24 Mos Confinement
- 1/24/17: Possession of Stolen Vehicle (B), Cowlitz County, 45 Mos Confinement
- 1/24/17: Theft of Motor Vehicle (B), Cowlitz County, 42.75 Mos Confinement
- 9/14/17: Possession Stolen Vehicle (B), Cowlitz County, 43 Mos Confinement

Adult Misdemeanor Convictions:

- 9/20/05: Second Degree Criminal Trespass, King County
- 11/29/05: Driving While Suspend/Revoked 3, King County
- 12/5/06: Minor in Possession, King County
- 4/4/07: Obstructing, King County
- 4/4/07: Resisting Arrest, King County
- 10/27/08: First Degree Criminal Trespass, Snohomish County
- 12/30/10: Fourth Degree Assault, King County

Beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother

Cindy Georgina Goerlitz, 83



Cindy Georgina Goerlitz, 83, of Waynesboro, PA and formerly of Washington State, passed away, Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at her home.

Cindy was born on May 7, 1940, in Pueblo, Colorado to George & Laura Mae Embree. Cindy was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was a tireless worker and more specifically a caregiver. Cindy worked as a waitress and eventually bar and restaurant owner before changing career paths to childcare and ultimately nursing in both institutional and private, residential care settings. At the end of her career, Cindy owned and operated an adult family home and provided personalized care to many and support to their families during the 13 years the home was open.

Cindy rarely let herself sit and relax, but when she did, she was an avid reader and designed and assembled by hand keepsake quilts that she gifted to not only her family, but also made to donate to women's shelters for warmth and comfort in difficult times.

Cindy will be remembered by friends and family for her fiercely independent spirit, never-ending generosity, whip-smart banter, quick wit, charm and sense of humor. Cindy's home was open to all, and to be a friend of her children meant you were family to her.

Cindy was preceded in death by her father George Embree and mother Laura Mae Taylor Embree; brothers, Ernest (Tom) Freeman, Ed Freeman, Charles Freeman; and sisters, Nadine Fern, Kathryn West, Myrtle Chase and Novellene Freeman.

She is survived by her sons, Jimmy Lewis of Lynnwood, WA, Donald Goerlitz of Mountlake Terrace, WA, and David Goerlitz of Washinton D.C.; and daughter Kristen (Goerlitz) Oldham of Waynesboro, PA. Cindy will be fondly remembered by her former husband, Jerry Goerlitz of Frederick, MD. She is also survived by her sisters Jean (Jenny) Lawton of San Diego, CA and Dorothy Reazin of Albuquerque, NM; and brother, Ray Embree of Staples, TX.

Cindy is also survived by six grandchildren -Jesse Goerlitz of Wenatchee, WA, Christopher Goerlitz of Mountlake Terrace, WA, Brent Bare of Mountlake Terrace, WA, Catherine Lewis of Lynnwood, WA, Hayden Oldham of Waynesboro, PA, and Sofie and Tobias Goerlitz of Washington D.C.; great grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews.

The family would like to thank Hospice of Washington County and Franklin Hospice and each and every one of the caring staff members there who touched Cindy's life and provided such loving care for Cindy in her final days.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice of Washington County, 1710 Underpass Way, Suite 300, Hagerstown, MD 21740 and Franklin Hospice, 209 Grant St, Chambersburg, PA 17201.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Douglas A. Fiery Funeral Home, 1331 Eastern Blvd. North, Hagerstown, MD.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.douglasfiery.com

- | | |
|---|--|
| • 5/21/11: Driving While Suspend/Revoked 3, King County | • 2/10/03: Second Degree Burglary (B) |
| • 3/13/14: Fourth Degree Assault (DV), King County | • 5/14/03: Take Motor Vehicle w/o Permission (C) |
| • 3/13/14: Harassment (DV), King County | • 5/14/03: Attempt to Elude Pursuing Police (C) |
| • 3/23/14: First Degree Criminal Trespass, King County | • 7/29/04: Custodial Assault (C) |
| • 4/25/15: Possession of Stolen Property 3, King County | |

Juvenile Felony Convictions

- | | |
|---|---|
| • 7/21/00: Residential Burglary (B) | • 12/23/99: Third Degree Theft, King County |
| • 4/14/02: Take Motor Vehicle w/o Permission (C) | • 2/14/00: Dangerous Weapon on School Grounds, King County |
| • 04/12/02: Take Motor Vehicle w/o Permission (C) | • 3/9/02: Second Degree Reckless Burning, King County |
| • 7/16/02: Take Motor Vehicle w/o Permission (C) | • 5/24/02: Minor in Possession, King County |
| • 7/16/02: Second Degree Burglary (B) | • 8/21/02: Attempt Take Motor Veh w/o Permission, King County |
| • 9/22/03: Second Degree Theft (C) | • 10/2/02: Possession Stolen Property 3, King County |

from page 1 ORDINANCE

and Strom Peterson dissented.

The ordinance reads: “Testing shall be performed on all individual housing units, whether contained within single-family residences, multiplexes, condominiums, apartment buildings, motels or hotels, transient accommodations, pallet shelters, emergency shelters that operate more than thirty days per year or manufactured homes, as well as unsecured shared areas, including but not limited to, bathrooms, laundries, and lobbies.”

The new requirements direct the County Department of Facilities and Fleet to carry out methamphetamine testing and at the discretion of the Director, perform additional tests for other hazardous substances. The testing is intended to identify the presence of dangerous drugs in county-owned housing, including the hotels purchased in Edmonds and Everett.

“Since the county has decided to move into the role of landlord for affordable and supportive housing, it is critical that we ensure safe and healthy spaces are being provided for tenants and staff,” said Councilmember Nehring. “This testing requirement will give county staff the information they need to detect contamination early and, if necessary, take action to remedy the contamination before further damage is caused.”

After approximately 2 hours of public testimony, the Snohomish County Council with a vote of 3-2 on August 17, 2022, moved forward with the agreement to purchase two hotels to significantly boost bridge housing—with 129 units—with access to behavioral health services. The county used the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to purchase both hotels – the America’s Best Value Inn in Edmonds for \$9,075,000 and the Days Inn facility in Everett for \$10,823,000. However, prior to finalizing the agreement, it

was discovered that both hotels were contaminated with methamphetamine, a Schedule II stimulant under the Controlled Substances Act, for which the seller agreed to shave off \$1.6 million from the closing price.

Persons exposed to illegal methamphetamine commonly experience headaches, respiratory and eye irritation, nausea, and vomiting. Prolonged methamphetamine exposure is also associated with neurotoxic effects, including neuropathy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and Parkinson’s disease.

“The County should never have gotten into the housing business,” Councilman Sam Low told the Lynnwood Times. “We have great partners that are experts in housing that have been successfully providing these services. To protect those who will be living in the hotels and our employees working in this environment, we do not want a repeat of Claire’s Place, where dozens of

residents were displaced due to health issues related to drug residue.”

The ordinance comes following documented reports of meth contamination in supportive housing facilities in Everett and Snohomish. More than 60 residents of Claire’s Place alone were displaced after tests revealed that 48 units tested positive for dangerous levels of methamphetamine and fentanyl in October 2022.

The councilmen feel that earlier detection and awareness of the contamination may reduce the impacts to residents adversely affected by the evacuation of the buildings.

“It is my hope that this requirement will allow the County to keep vulnerable individuals safe and ensure that we are being good stewards of taxpayer dollars,” added Councilmember Nehring.

from page 9 EV REBATES

ness and engagement activities.

By facilitating the transition from gasoline-powered to electric vehicles, the Washington EV Instant Rebate program will directly contribute to cleaner air and a healthier environment. It is estimated that the program could lead to a reduction of up to 24,000 metric tons of Co2 emissions in the transportation sector, Washington’s greatest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions.

**STATE STRATEGY CALLS FOR
EQUITABLE ACCESS**

Commerce co-chairs the Washington

Interagency Electric Vehicle Coordinating Council (EV Council) with the Department of Transportation. The EV Council released a state Transportation Electrification Strategy (TES) in February, providing recommendations to ensure that EV incentives and infrastructure are accessible and available to all Washingtonians.

During the TES process, rideshare drivers – many of whom will qualify for the new instant rebates – expressed the need for incentives and rebates.

“Rideshare drivers spend a lot of miles on the road. For a just transition to electric vehicles, EV driving needs to be accessible to drivers of all walks of

life,” said Kathryn Jensen, field representative focused on EVs for the Drivers Union. “Along with fast charging infrastructure to power these vehicles, readily affordable EV options will make the switch to electric possible for more of our communities than ever before.”

In addition to the consumer EV lease and purchase incentives announced today, Commerce is administering over \$120 million in funding promoting electrification of transportation in Washington state.

**MORE EV CHARGING STATIONS
ACROSS THE STATE**

EV infrastructure investments include \$85 million announced in February for nearly 5,000 new charging stations in multifamily housing properties, publicly accessible locations, and in communities highly vulnerable to the health impacts of air pollution.

Approximately \$116 million of this work is funded by the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), creating jobs, lowering costs and fighting climate change throughout Washington state.

Earlier in the day, King County hosted an Earth Week event highlighting its EV fleet and noting a \$5.8 million grant from Commerce funded by the CCA

**from page 6 LYNNWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD
CENTER**

“I am thrilled to be a part of a project that addresses so many of the needs in south Snohomish County. We knew that the challenges our communities would face coming out of the pandemic would not look the same as they once did and our team has done an incredible job designing the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center as a response to that,” said Smith.

Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers was unable to attend Thursday’s ceremony but speaking on his behalf was Snohomish County Executive Director Ken Klein. Others that spoke were Paul Hollie, speaking on behalf of Primera, and Ruth Kagi, speaking on behalf of the Steering Committee, followed suit.

After the speaking portion of Thursday evening’s event, travel writer Rick Steves led the group outside to tour the lot of the upcoming facility asking the crowd to imagine what will become of the space in the coming years.

“I’m all over this project because it is the very, very, best investment as a community we can do in so many ways,” said Rick Steves, “local business owner and enthusiastic donor, “It’s an opportunity for different dimensions of our society, of our community to come together.”

When the center opens by June of 2025, it will house a VOA Community Resource Center, medical, dental and behavioral health clinics, an early childcare education and assistance program (ECEAP) preschool, a Boys & Girls club, technology lab, adult day programs, community events and gatherings, culturally specific programs, refugee and immigrant assistance, a commercial kitchen and café, and classes, trainings and workshops.

Although Volunteers of America was founded in 1896, it didn’t open its Northern Washington branch in Everett until 1915. For the last 108 years the nonprofit has assisted those living in north Snohomish County but for residents living in south county this left a desert for



Artist rendition of the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center. Source: Architecture Resource Collaborative (arc).

social service accessibility.

For example, out of 1,286 ranked schools in Washington, Cedar Valley Community School (which is located just 1.5 miles from the upcoming Lynnwood Neighborhood Center site) is ranked 180th for total students on lunch assistance. Additionally, the percentage of Cedar Valley Community School students on free and reduced lunch assistance (79.5%) is significantly higher than the state average of 47.3%, indicating the area has a higher level of poverty than state average, according to Kristi Meyers.

The Lynnwood Neighborhood Center will provide an accessible hub of services and programs to serve Lynnwood, Edmonds, Shoreline, and communities across the area.

The upcoming Lynnwood Neighborhood Center’s outcome-driven programs, services and partnerships will focus on five key priority areas to fill gaps in social determinants of health in the community: economic

stability, access to quality education for children and youth, access to quality health care, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context.

It will help people achieve economic stability by providing wrap-around preventative services that empower families towards self-efficacy and generational wealth development, Myers said. This includes support for food, childcare, accessing affordable housing, tenant-landlord dispute resolution, and job training.

The center will provide access to quality education for children and youth by providing free and affordable educational opportunities and supportive youth development for early learners through adolescents, with a focus on communities that have faced historically disproportionate barriers to educations. It will also provide access to quality health care by helping people access timely, high-quality health, dental and behavioral health care services at convenient onsite clinics.

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